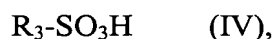


HA stands for an aromatic sulphonic acid,

and x denotes an integer from 1 to 6 or a fractional number between 0 and 6.

3. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic sulphonic acids satisfy of formula IV,



in which R_3 represents unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy.

7. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 6, wherein one of the aromatic sulphonic acids is benzene sulphonic acid or p-toluene sulphonic acid.

8. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the mixtures contain the (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) diastereomers respectively in a proportion of at least 5 percent by weight or more.

11. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvents are polar organic solvents that dissolve at least 1 g of addition salt of a tetrahydrofolic acid ester per liter of solvent at a boiling temperature.

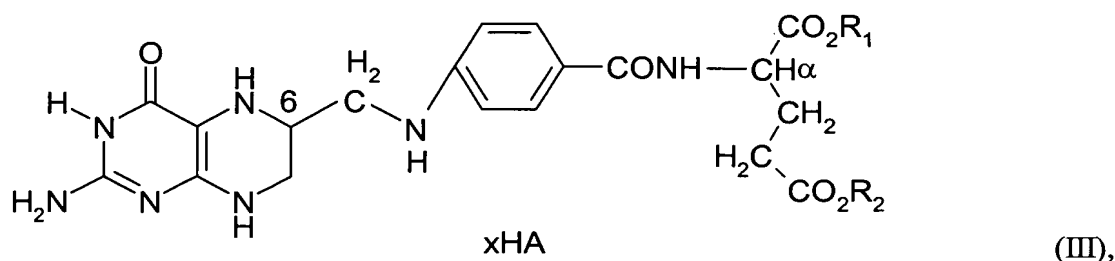
12. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein alcohols or mixtures of alcohols with at least one further solvent are used.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, further comprising providing a reaction solution from the hydrogenation of folic acid esters, or from the hydrogenation of addition salts of folic acid esters and aromatic sulphonic acids, or from the hydrogenation of folic acid in the presence of sulphonic acids.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising preparing or dissolving an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt of a tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic sulphonic acid in an organic solvent, wherein the tetrahydrofolic acid ester is of the formula:



R_1 and R_2 , are independently, C_1 - C_4 alkyl,

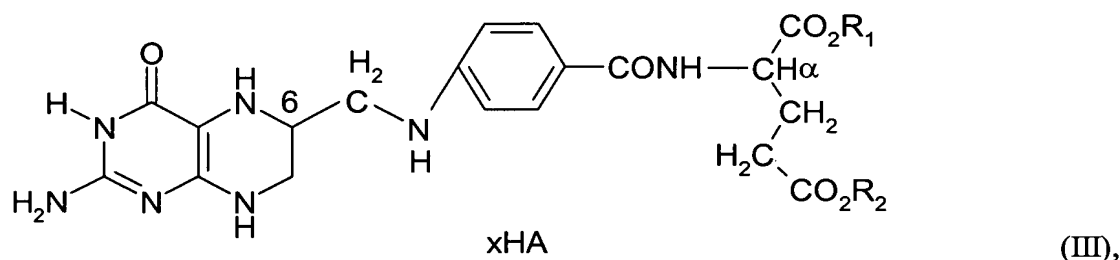
HA stands for the aromatic sulphonic acid,

and x denotes an integer from 1 to 6 or a fractional number between 0 and 6,

then crystallizing at least once, and optionally, hydrolyzing the crystallize to produce (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid, crystallizing the latter as a free acid or isolating the tetrahydrofolic acid in the form of a salt.

17. **(Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 6, wherein R₁ and R₂ are methyl.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising preparing or dissolving an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt of a tetrahydrofolic acid or tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic sulphonic acid in an organic solvent, wherein the tetrahydrofolic acid or tetrahydrofolic acid ester is of the formula III,



wherein ~~R₁ and R₂ are H~~, and one of R₁ and R₂ is H and the other represents, or both R₁ and R₂, independently of one another[[,]] represent, a monovalent hydrocarbon radical or a heterohydrocarbon radical attached via a C atom, wherein the heteroatom is -O-, -S-, or -N-,

HA stands for the aromatic sulphonic acid,

and x denotes an integer or a fractional number of 0.5-2.0,

then crystallizing at least once, and optionally hydrolyzing the crystallizate to produce (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid, crystallizing the latter as a free acid or isolating the tetrahydrofolic acid in the form of a salt.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17, wherein in the formula III, x is 1 or 2 or a fractional number of 0.5-2, and HA is phenyl-, toluyl-, fluoro-, chloro- or trifluoromethylphenyl sulphonic acid.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein in the formula III, x is 1 or 2 or a fractional number of 0.5-2, and HA is phenyl- or ~~p-toluy~~ sulphonic p-toluylsulphonic acid.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising blending an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt from a ~~tetrahydrofolic acid or~~ tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic sulphonic acid in a solvent and then heating the mixture to dissolve the addition salt of the tetrahydrofolic acid or tetrahydrofolic acid ester and the aromatic sulphonic acid, thereafter cooling down the solution, whereupon the (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) diastereomer crystallizes out or both diastereomers crystallize out, and then separating the latter using filtration.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S, α S) or (6S, α R) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising preparing or dissolving an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt of a ~~tetrahydrofolic acid or~~ tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic

